Eastern Railways is as under :

NTKMs per wagon per day

Railway	1991-92	1995-96
Central	1473	1621
North Eastern	2109	1787
Northeast Frontier	1388	1611
Southern	1245	1372
South Central	1516	1737
South Eastern	1384	1877

Wagon Kilometres per wagon per day

Railway	1991-92	1995-96
Central	112.0	127.0
North Eastern	146.0	157.0
Northeast Frontier	89.0	93.0
Southern	102.1	107.6
South Central	129.9	172.1
South Eastern	87.6	131.1

Comparative Wagon turn round - 1991-92 & 1995-96

Railway	1991-92	1995-96
Central	6.6	5.1
North Eastern	6.1	6.2
Northeast Frontier	6.4	6.4
Southern	6.2	5.4
South Central	6.2	5.6
South Eastern	6.6	5.1

Late Running of South Bound Superfast Trains

1883. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the south bound superfast trains have been found to be habitually running late;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). However, the running of trains get affected at times due to reasons such as accidents, agitations, equipment failures, alarm-chain-pulling, miscreant activities and bad weather etc.

(c) All efforts including intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers' level are also being launched.

National Airports in the Country

1884. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of national airports in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to link new places with air service in the coming years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any steps are proposed to be taken to make air service more efficient and convenient and to remove the difficulties of the passengers going abroad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) There are 120 civil airports in the country, including 5 international airports, 28 civil enclaves in airports controlled by the Ministry of Defence and 87 airports under the control of the Airports Authority of India.

(b) and (c). Airlinking of new places is decided by the airline operators keeping in view the commercial viability.

(d) and (e). In the domestic sector, private airlines have been providing air services, between various cities, in addition to Indian Airlines. Foreign airlines operate schedule services from the international airports to destinations outside India. However, visa, currency, and other restrictions imposed by foreign Governments have to be followed by Indian nationals for visiting foreign countries.

Railway Link with Gangtok

1885. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to connect Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim with Railway net-work;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Since Gangtok is located in difficult mountaineous terrain, it would be difficult to construct a Railway line. However, a survey for a new line from Sivok to Gelikola has been taken up.

Rake in Trivandrum Bound Howrah Express

1886. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Trivandrum bound Howrah Express has its own rake;